GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:834
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
INDO US BILATERAL SECURITY COOPERATION
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and the USA on bilateral security co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modalities chalked out in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) The 'New Framework in the India-US Defence Relationship' was signed on June 28, 2005, during the then Raksha Mantri's visit to USA. The 'Framework' updates the 'Agreed Minutes on Defence Relations between India and USA' signed in January 1995. The framework seeks to advance common security interests such as maintaining security and stability; defeating terrorism; preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, data and technologies; and protecting the free flow of commerce.

The 'Framework' seeks to, inter alia, enhance the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces to deal with terrorism, disasters, and spread of WMD, promote a defence trade, production and technology relationship with USA, exchange information and perspectives on international security issues and defence policies of common interest, enlarge India's options and bargaining power in acquisition of defence equipment and technology, and increase India's role in international affairs.

The New Framework established a Defence Procurement and Production Group and a number of other working groups under the Defence Policy Group to promote a defence trade, production and technology relationship with USA.